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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: D/OTE
1026 CofC

EXTENSION

NO. STAT

DATE 26 July 1983 STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. DDA 7D24, HQS.	27 JUL 1983	28 JUL 1983		This is the report I spoke to at the 7/26 Staff meeting. STAT
2. ADDA		28 JUL 1983		
3. DDA	29 JUL 1983			
4.				DD/A REGISTRY FILE: 45-7
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FORM 1-79 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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Illinois Prisons Threatening to Turn Away Inmates

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, July 25 — For about two more weeks, Illinois state prisons will accept prisoners from county sheriffs if they phone ahead for reservations. After that, the state says, it will run out of beds.

Then, says the DuPage County Sheriff, Richard Doria, "Who's going to blink first, I don't know. But I can tell you this: I'm not at all happy that the state wants to give me its problems."

The crisis has developed since an Illinois Supreme Court ruling July 12 that halted the practice of alleviating overcrowding by giving prisoners extra time off for good behavior.

The law permits the state to free inmates three months early, but since the prisons reached their capacity in June 1980, said Nic Howell, a corrections department spokesman, release up to 11 months early has become routine. Over the last three years more than 10,000 felons have been released before their sentences expired, he said, adding that none of these had committed murder, rape or armed robbery.

Almost 100 Percent Turnover

With the early release program no longer available as a mechanism for controlling the size of the prison population, Mr. Howell said, "We're almost at the point of 100 percent turnover." The prisons were built to hold 13,900 inmates, he said, and "Our projections are this year to get 13,000 new prisoners."

All parties — the Governor, state's attorneys, county sheriffs and state prison officials — have appealed to the public for money for new prisons. The sparring for an immediate solution found a temporary truce last week in the "space available" system, which, corrections officials said, has allowed for transfer of most prisoners.

After negotiating with the state, Cook County, which includes Chicago and many of its suburbs, sent 100 prisoners to state facilities last week, with an estimated few dozen remaining. The previous week the state accepted 90 of the 130 scheduled for transfer.

Philip Hardeman, director of the Cook County Department of Corrections, said that if the state did refuse to accept any more inmates after Aug. 5, the date the state expects to run out of space, "we could have 600 on the floor in four weeks" from lack of beds.

Four in a Cell

Macon County Sheriff Stephen D. Fisher in Decatur said overcrowding was intense already in his 40-year-old jail. He said any proposal that kept more state prisoners in his system was out of the question. Currently, he said, built for 25.

Law enforcement officials trace the overcrowding to a decision in the 1970's not to build more prisons, to the reclassification of residential burglary as a more serious crime with stiffer penalties, and to stepped-up prosecutions and convictions throughout the state.

"More Federal dollars went into law enforcement, because that's what the public wanted," Mr. Howell said. "In 1977, 500,000 criminal cases were filed in Illinois courts. In 1981 that climbed to 700,000. That's one reason we're in a crisis."

Gov. James R. Thompson has thrown his energies into the problem, meeting with grups throughout the state. He has also been canvassing state legislators to see if he can gather enough votes to pass emergency relief measures.

Emergency Sessions Urged

The Governor hopes to persuade the General Assembly to convene in an emergency session to make the flexible early release system legal, until a long-term solution can be found. Officials are also debating the feasibility of "modular housing" and of permitting more doubling up of prisoners in one-man cells.

Peter B. Bensinger, chairman of t... Governor's Task Force on Pris... Crowding, advocates as a tempora... solution expanded work release, coun... supervision in some cases of release... and a broader parole system for less... offenses.

For the long term, sheriffs and stat... attorneys have called for building mo... prison space beyond the 4,000 new be... that are under construction or planne... Mr. Bensinger proposed a reven... sharing program under which coun... jails and corrections officials wo... handle the cases of lesser offende... Some sheriffs are amenable to that, ... cluding Mr. Doria, who said he co... find room, temporarily, for prisoner... the state if the price was right.

Under Court Order

That would be impossible for C... County, Mr. Hardeman said, beca... its already crowded facility is unde... Federal court order limiting popu... tion.

"We don't want the money, we d... want the dollars," he said. "We're ... ways hovering around the 1,500 li... No amount of money is going to m... up for our being in contempt of court."

Other county officials fear that ... too could be breaking the law if ... state does not accept their prisoner... can't hold anyone for more than a w... then I'll hear from the judge," said ... other. "If the Governor tells me ... not taking the prisoners, and my j... says deliver them to the Departme... Corrections or I'll hold you in conte... they're going to the Department of ... rections. I'm going to listen to the ... he can put me in jail."

President's Job Ratin... Improving, Poll Repo...

...approval of President Reagan ... performance, according to the ... Poll, has improved steadily throu... third year in office, from 35 perc... late January to 47 percent in June.

His gain contrasts with the reco... predecessors. Presidents Ken... Nixon and Carter all lost suppo... their third year in office, and Pres... Eisenhower's standing remaine... about the same level in mid-1955 ... January of that year.

The latest Gallup Poll, taken Ju... to 27, showed 47 percent of the pub... proving of Mr. Reagan's handling ... job and 44 percent disapproving. ... The poll of 1,558 adults has a m... of sampling error of plus or minus ... percentage points.

Seaway Loses $37 Mil...

OTTAWA, July 25 (AP) — T... Lawrence Seaway Authority lo... million in the year ended in Marc... faces a deficit nearly double tha... year because of declining traffic ... recession. The authority noted th... in its annual report today.

Waste in Federal Aircraft Use

WASHINGTON, July 25 (AP) — Federal agencies are wasting millions of dollars because of mismanagement in buying and operating aircraft, according to a Congressional report.

Representative Jack Brooks said the latest General Accounting Office study, made public Sunday, reinforced the findings of two earlier reports dealing with use of Government-owned planes by the Coast Guard and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. Brooks, a Texas Democrat who heads the House Government Operations Committee, said the report indicated "widespread waste and misuse" of taxpayer dollars, and he called on the Office of Management and Budget to establish "a uniform Governmentwide policy for the acquisition, management and utilization of aircraft."

The G.A.O., an accounting and investigative arm of Congress, said that in the fiscal year 1981, the latest year for which data were available, civilian Federal agencies spent about $326 million operating a fleet of 675 Government-owned planes and helicopters. In addition, $99 million was spent for use of privately owned aircraft.

The study found a variety of problems, among them use of Government planes when cheaper commercial service was available and transportation of spouses, dependents and other non-employees. It also noted that "little interagency coordination of aircraft operations is occurring."

After the earlier reports dealing with the Coast Guard and F.A.A., Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Hanford Dole said the department was tightening its policies on use of Government-owned planes.

N.Y. Times 7/26/82

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